Impact of increasing temperature of earth

†2109. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether increase in the temperature of the earth is having its direct impact in the country resulting in melting of the glaciers and decline in the thickness of the snow in the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the number of years since its study is being done and the action being taken to check this trend;

(c) whether any direct effect has been noticed so far as a result of the action taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Regular monitoring of several glaciers during the last 100 years in major basins of Indian Himalaya from Shyok in west to Changme Khangpu (Tista) in the East have revealed that majority of glaciers in Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession. Observations indicate that during the past 100 years, mean temperature over the country (India) as a whole has increased by 0.5°C.

(b) to (d) GSI has recently initiated study of two glaciers of Bhaga basin *viz.* Mulkila and Yoche Lungpa in July, 2006 which is likely to continue for two more years.

Department of Science and Technology had started an All-India coordinated programme on Himalayan glaciers in 1988 with a Programme Advisory and Monitoring Committee to study the glaciers of Western and Central Himalaya *i.e.* Gangotri and its tributary glaciers and Chhota Sigri glaciers in Central Himalaya. The glacier recession rate varies from glacier to glacier. Preliminary analysis suggests the recession rate to be of the order of about 10 to 15m/ year for some of the glaciers. However, long-term data with wider coverage of glaciers are required to arrive at a consistent recession rate.

Weather forecast by Meteorological Department

†2110. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.